

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 174384

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 DODE-00 PM-04 SS-15 NSC-05 NEA-10

SP-02 PA-02 USIA-15 /063 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:JMPOPE:MR
APPROVED BY AF/E:RBARRETT
S/PRS:RFUNSETH (INFO)

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P 142138Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 174384

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, KE, US

SUBJECT: JULY 13 PRESS BRIEFING RE KENYA-UGANDA

1. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, AT JULY 13 BRIEFING, QUERIED AT
LENGTH RE KENYAN-UGANDAN SITUATION.

2. Q: IS UNITED STATES CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF ANY
MILITARY ACTION THAT MIGHT BE LAUNCHED BY UGANDA AGAINST ANY
OF ITS NEIGHBORS OVER ITS REACTION TO ISRAELI RAID?

A: ON WHOLE QUESTION OF TENSION ON KENYAN-UGANDAN BORDER,
ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT WE ARE FOLLOWING THAT SITUATION VERY
CLOSELY AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN
OUT THERE WHICH WOULD POSE THREAT TO PEACE IN AREA.

3. Q: DOES UNITED STATES HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ANY MOBILI-
ZATION FORCES IN AREA THAT RAISES ITS STATE OF CONCERN?

A: I HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY BRIEFING ON TROOP MOVEMENTS IN
AREA, BUT THERE CERTAINLY ARE REPORTS OF TENSION. WE HAVE
SEEN THEM. AND WE ARE FOLLOWING THAT SITUATION VERY CLOSELY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 174384

4. Q: THERE HAVE BEEN RECURRING REPORTS BROADCAST BY UGANDA
RADIO REPEATING ALLEGATIONS OF AMERICAN AIRCRAFT --

AMERICAN-ISRAELI AIRCRAFT, AND SO ON.

A: WE DENIED THOSE. THAT IS JUST NONSENSE.

5. Q: DOES STATE DEPARTMENT REGARD APPEASING AFRICA
ESSENTIAL BECAUSE OF ISRAELI RAID AND POSITION TAKEN BY
PRESIDENT AND AMBASSADOR TO UNITED NATIONS IN LIGHT OF
FEELING ABOUT THIS?

A: I ABSOLUTELY REJECT THAT (APPEASING) TO DESCRIBE
THE BASIS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH AFRICA.

6. Q: YOU SAY YOU'RE FOLLOWING SITUATION ON KENYAN-
UGANDAN BORDER CLOSELY. AND WHILE YOU'RE FOLLOWING IT
CLOSELY, THERE IS AN UNUSUAL CONFLUENCE OF AMERICAN SHIPS
AND PLANES IN AREA. NOW, CAN WE ASSUME THAT THERE IS
CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE TWO EVENTS?

A: I WILL JUST RESTATE THE EXPLANATION GIVEN -- THAT
P-3 THAT STOPPED IN NAIROBI STOPPED THERE IN COURSE OF
GENERAL OPERATING MISSION, AND BEARY IS CARRYING OUT NOR-
MAL PORT CALL AT MOMBASSA AS WE HAVE DONE IN PAST, AND WE
HAVE ALSO HAD NAVY TASK FORCE IN INDIAN OCEAN BEFORE ALSO.

7. Q: WELL, CONVERSELY THEN, ARE WE TO ASSUME THAT THERE
IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE TWO EVENTS?

A: YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE YOUR OWN ASSUMPTIONS.
I CANNOT MAKE ASSUMPTIONS.

8. Q: DOESN'T DEFENSE DEPARTMENT NORMALLY CONSULT WITH
STATE DEPARTMENT BEFORE IT SENDS FRIGATE ON PORT CALL OR
ANY NAVAL VESSEL ON PORT CALL?

A: IT IS PART OF PROCEDURE ON PORT CALLS. STATE
DEPARTMENT IS CONSULTED OR INFORMED, YES.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 174384

9. Q: DOES STATE DEPARTMENT EVER ASK DEFENSE DEPARTMENT
TO SEND SHIP TO MAKE PORT CALL?

A: IT IS NOT INCONCEIVABLE, BUT I AM NOT AWARE OF
SPECIFIC INSTANCE.

10. Q: COULD YOU FIND OUT IF THAT WAS DONE IN THIS CASE?

A: I WILL CHECK INTO IT. (SPOKESMAN AT JULY 14
BRIEFING TOLD CORRESPONDENTS: DECISION TO SEND BEARY TO
MOMBASSA WAS MADE IN SAME MANNER AS DECISIONS ARE MADE
ON ANY OTHER PORT CALL BY U.S. NAVAL VESSEL, THAT IS TO

SAY, IT IS MADE AFTER CONSULTATION BETWEEN STATE AND
DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS AND THEN STATE DEPARTMENT TRANSMITS
REQUEST THROUGH OUR EMBASSY FOR CONCURRENCE OF HOST
GOVERNMENT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE174384
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMPOPE:MR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760271-0655
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760758/aaaabyzf.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schaeafaj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by schaeafaj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JULY 13 PRESS BRIEFING RE KENYA-UGANDA
TAGS: PFOR, KE, US, UG
To: NAIROBI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006